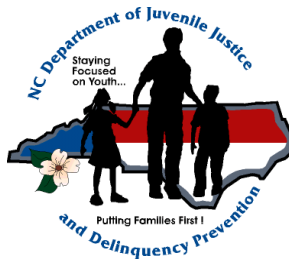


**RECIDIVISM OF JUVENILES ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT FOR
OFFENSES IN THE CLASS A-E ADULT FELONY OFFENSE CATEGORIES:
A TWO-YEAR FOLLOW-UP**



February 2004

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the North Carolina Juvenile Code, Article 33, General Statute Section 7B-3300 (See Appendix A), the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) prepares an annual recidivism study which reports recidivism rates of “juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent for offenses that would be Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felonies if committed by adults and who subsequently are adjudicated delinquent or convicted.” This report fulfills the mandate by providing a statistical analysis of recidivism among 147 North Carolina juveniles who were adjudicated for A-E felonies, during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The follow-up period in this report was an average of two years and included juveniles who were adjudicated for A-E felonies who remained in the community as well as those juveniles returning from Youth Development Centers during the follow-up period. As legislatively mandated, the first subsequent juvenile adjudication and/or adult conviction for each juvenile is counted to determine the recidivism rate.

This report presents the public concerns about serious, chronic and violent juvenile offenders. An historical perspective is provided from past recidivism reports. In order to identify repeat offenders, multiple methods were used. These included: gathering Risk Assessment data from court counselors, surveying court counselors, searching the Juvenile Tracking System, NC-JOIN system and querying the Administrative Office of Court’s Automated Criminal Infraction System. Demographic and offense information about the sample of Class A-E delinquents, along with subsequent recidivism as juveniles and adults, are enumerated. Comparison of risk factors between the recidivists and non-recidivists in the study sample are also reported. Summarized findings are as follows:

Cohort Summary

N Size	147
Ethnicity	42.2% White, 53.7 % African-American, 4.1% other
Average Age	17.1 years
Gender	92.5% Male, 7.5% Female
Percentage Distribution Of Felony A-E Offenses	Felony Sex Offense (50.3%), Felony Assault (13.6%), Kidnapping (3.4%), Arson (2.7%), Armed Robbery (23.8%), Burglary (3.4%), Manslaughter (1.4%), Murder, 2 nd Degree (0.7%), Weapon Discharge (0.7%)
Average Total Risk Score	8.44

Recidivism Summary

Follow-up Time	24 month –30 month
Percentage of Sample with New Charges (Re-arrests)	28% (n=41) (Felony A-E=3, Felony F-I=8, Misdemeanors=30)
(Statutory Recidivism Rate) Percentage of Sample Subsequently Adjudicated or Convicted	14% (n=21) (Felony A-E=1, Felony F-I=4, Misdemeanors=16)
Percentage with Adult Charges	16% (n=24)
Average Time to Recidivate	297 days
Average Total Risk Score - Re-arrests	10.31
Greatest Increase in Mean Risk Score from Cohort to Recidivist	Substance Abuse (Re-arrestee mean score of 1.18, From a Cohort mean score of 0.68)

RECIDIVISM OF JUVENILES ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT FOR OFFENSES IN THE CLASS A-E ADULT FELONY OFFENSE CATEGORIES

This study report is the 2004 report from an ongoing study of juvenile recidivism in North Carolina. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) undertook the initial report in 1997. The present report is undertaken by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention pursuant to N.C. General Statutes, Article 33, § 7B-3300 (attached in Appendix A). This statute directs the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to annually "compute the recidivism rate of juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent for offenses that would be Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felonies if committed by adults and who subsequently are adjudicated delinquent or convicted." (Hereinafter, this report will refer to these juveniles as "juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies.") This report includes information on the following areas:

- Literature review about serious, chronic and violent juvenile offenders and the context of public concerns prompting this type of study
- Past study reports and other juvenile recidivism studies
- Methodological issues inherent in the study of recidivism
- Data collection efforts necessary to report such data.
- Information about the sample of Class A-E delinquents and their offenses and this sample's subsequent recidivism as juveniles and adults.
- Comparison of risk factors between the recidivists and non-recidivists in the study sample.

Background

Public concern about chronic and violent juvenile offenders has developed over several years. As early as 1972, researchers determined that a small number of youth commit a large percentage of delinquent acts, and are likely to persist in offending behaviors. (Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin, 1972). The idea of a small cohort of chronic recidivists has been expressed in research over the past several years. Schumaker and Kurz (2000:3-4) described this type of cohort as "The 8% Problem", noting that after a seven-year research project from 1987 to 1993 in Orange County California, it was determined that an eight-percent cohort had been "referred to the juvenile justice system for crimes a minimum of four times within a 3-year period. They further stated that these youth were responsible for a majority of the juvenile court's repeat offenses, particularly those involving serious repeat crimes. Schumaker and Kurz (2000:13) further noted that: "half of the 8% repeat offenders continued the cycle of criminality into their adult years." The clear implication is that appropriate identification and control of this small recidivist group can have long-lasting public safety benefits.

The observation that there was a small group of chronic juvenile recidivists gained increased attention in the early to mid-1990s. Alarming juvenile crime statistics bolstered the increased interest. Between 1989 and 1994, there was a 20 percent increase in the arrest

rates for juveniles. During this time frame, the national increase in juvenile violent crime was quite significant. The juvenile offense rate for homicides increased from 8 percent in 1980 to 16 percent in 1994. (Sickmund, Snyder, and Poe-Yamagata, 1997) This dramatic rise in the national juvenile crime rate created a great deal of public concern. With assumptions of an increasing juvenile crime rate and an increasing juvenile population, some concluded that there would soon be an imminent and unprecedented wave of serious juvenile crime. Among these, Princeton sociologist John J. Dilulio, Jr. (1995), predicted the emergence of juvenile “super-predators.”¹ These dire predictions prompted a great deal of media attention and public concern about serious juvenile crime. In 1997, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation requiring the annual computation of recidivism rates for violent juvenile offenders.

These juvenile crime trends and an increased level of public alarm appeared to have led to a focus on the serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders during the mid-1990s. During this time, the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention developed a Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders. This strategy focused on strengthening families, core social institutions, effective interventions, and the identification and control of the small group of serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders. This strategy further advocated the use of risk assessment and graduated sanctions. (Wilson and Howell, 1993) The State of North Carolina reformed its juvenile code to include risk assessments and graduated levels of disposition based on seriousness of offense and delinquency history.

The desire to prevent and intervene with potentially dangerous juvenile offenders has led to several efforts to identify the developmental antecedents for the serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders. Loeber and Hay (1994) conducted a longitudinal study that identified three developmental pathways towards chronic, serious, violent delinquency: 1) the overt pathway, which moves at an early age from minor aggression (bullying, annoying others) to physical fighting and ultimately to violence at a later age; 2) the covert pathway, which at an early age, moves from minor covert behaviors (lying, shoplifting) to property damage, and to moderate to serious delinquency at a later age; and 3) the authority conflict pathway, which begins as early as age twelve with stubborn behavior to disobedience, and ultimately to status offenses. These pathways are not mutually exclusive and those juveniles whose behaviors fall into all three pathways would have a very high rate of violent offending. Correspondingly, Moffitt (1993) developed a typology to differentiate this type of offender. Based on developmental pathways, Moffitt distinguishes the life-course persistent (LCP) juvenile offender from the adolescent-limited (AL) juvenile offender. The life-course persistent offender (LCP) is likely to exhibit problematic behaviors at an early age and develop a pattern of illegal conduct that would persist well into adulthood and may indeed last throughout the offender’s life course. In contrast, the adolescent-limited (AL) offender begins his offending behaviors during teenage years and stops offending around his eighteenth birthday. Interestingly, Moffitt (1996) would later

¹ The concept of “super-predators” would later fall into disrepute. Zimring (1998) would call it a fundamentally unscientific distortion of statistics. Further, later drops in the juvenile crime rate would cause the fear of the super-predator to subside.

note that the frequency and severity of offenses are sometimes similar between these two groups during adolescence. This makes it difficult to differentiate between the two based on offense behaviors during teenage years without the consideration of earlier developmental pathways.

The need to identify and control the serious, chronic violent offender has led to the development of several risk instruments that would use an actuarial approach to estimate the likelihood of recidivism.² (Wiebush et al. 1995) Risk assessments, while not having exhaustive predictive power, provide useful information for classifying offenders. Further, core sets of variables are consistently reported by researchers to be predictive of recidivism. Wiebush et al (1995) list these variables as follows: age at first referral, number of priors, current offense, prior assault, prior out-of-home placement, substance abuse, school problems, special education, peers, mental health stability, parent control/family problems, runaway, victim of abuse/neglect, gender, and prior adjustment to supervision. In 2000, the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention would adopt a risk instrument applying many of these variables.³ Although most risk instruments have been developed for a wide application among the juvenile offender population, there has been some evidence that the use of certain risk instruments may be able to differentiate risk for ongoing violence even among youth previously convicted for violent offenses. (Catchpole and Gretton, 2003)⁴

Contrary to the perception of an expanding juvenile crime epidemic, there has been a drop in the rate of juvenile crime both nationally and in North Carolina during the past few years. According to the latest figures from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the number of juvenile arrests nationally is down 20% from the 1997 level. (Snyder, 2003) Regarding violent juvenile crimes, Snyder (2003) reports that nationwide, “juvenile arrests for violence were the lowest since 1988.” Snyder (2003) further points out that since its peak in 1994, there has been a reduction in national juvenile arrests for violent crimes every single year since 1995. Additionally, this nationwide reduction in violent arrests for juveniles has been substantial when compared to adult arrests for violence. For violent crime indices from 1992 to 2001, there has been a 21% reduction in juvenile arrests compared to only a 9% reduction for adults nationwide. (Snyder 2003) The North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will be reporting a 2.0 percent decrease in the juvenile crime complaints from 2001 to 2003.⁵ Further, fears of the emergent juvenile super-predators appear to have subsided. Nevertheless, there remains an active interest in the criminal careers of the serious juvenile offender.

² An actuarial approach models the use of probability theory in the insurance industry where the risk of coverage is estimated based on a variety of predictive variables.

³ The North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in association with the Jordan Institute of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are currently engaged in efforts to validate and improve this instrument’s predictive utility among several juvenile justice subgroups.

⁴ The instruments evaluated were the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI), and the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL:YV).

⁵ The decline is reflected by a drop in juvenile complaints from 2001 (40,937) to 2003 (40,125)

Previous Research

Since 1997, six previous recidivism reports have been submitted to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations to meet the mandate requiring the annual computation of recidivism rates for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies. The following is a summary of those studies' findings:

1) In 1997, the Administrative Office of the Court undertook the initial study. After a search of 29 individual district database files for potential offenders, a survey of court counselors, and a search of the Administrative Office of the Court's Automatic Criminal Infraction System (ACIS), agency researchers examined a sample of 128 juveniles who had been adjudicated for class A-E felonies for Fiscal Year 1995-96. There was a 30% recidivism rate for those who were subsequently adjudicated delinquent or convicted. The sample follow-up period ranged from 2 to 25 months.⁶

2) In 1999, the Office of Juvenile Justice used the same methodology to collect data on 278 juveniles who had been adjudicated for A-E felonies. The study analyzed 33 Districts for the 1996 and 1997 calendar years. A 9 to 33 month follow-up time revealed a 17.3% recidivism rate for those who were subsequently adjudicated delinquent or convicted.

3) In 2000, the Office of Juvenile Justice again used the same methodology to collect data on 173 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for felonies in the A-E class. The study analyzed 38 Districts for calendar year 1998. The recidivism rate for those who were subsequently adjudicated delinquent or convicted was 14.5% during a follow-up period that ranged from 9 to 25 months. The mean time to recidivate was 210.8 days.⁷

4) Stevens Clarke (2001) conducted a study of the criminal recidivism after commitment for persons released from North Carolina Youth Development Centers during 1996. This report examined a random sample of 288 persons, with a follow-up period that ranged 21.3 to 47.3 months. The report focused on individuals released from a Youth Detention Center; while previous reports focused on the adjudication for a felony in the A-E class. As such, it measured the recidivism of those individuals who had previously been committed to a Youth Development Center for any offense, but did not measure the recidivism of those persons who had been adjudicated for a felony in the A-E class and remained in the community. The recidivism rate for individuals who had been committed to Youth Development Centers was striking. Out of 288 cases, 88.5% received a criminal charge after their release from the Youth Development Center, with 58% resulting in criminal conviction.⁸ Clarke (2001) further analyzed which variables would predict violent felony recidivism. Notably the type of offense for which a person was committed to a youth development center (i.e. if there had been a prior Felony A-E adjudication as

⁶ The due date for this report was December 31st. After the initial report, the due date was moved to February 15th for each year thereafter.

⁷ The previous studies did not measure time to recidivate

⁸ Other studies have demonstrated a high level of recidivism when one uses training school release as the starting point to measure recidivism. Previously Dean and Brame (1992) examined 1,732 cases released from North Carolina Training Schools from 1988-1989. Using a follow-up period of 912 days, these researchers found a failure (recidivism) rate of 50% for the entire population, and ranged upward to 59% for some subsets. Whereas, Visser et al. (1991) found that 88% of juveniles released to parole from the California Youth Authority recidivated or "failed" within three years. Benda and Tollett (1999) measured recidivism as re-commitment to the Division of Youth Services facility. They found a 60% return rate within one year.

opposed to a Misdemeanor adjudication) was not significantly related to violent felony recidivism.

5) In 2002, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention utilized data from the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Commission to identify a sample of 100 juveniles who had been adjudicated for a felony in the A-E class in the first six months of 1999. Excluding 15 juveniles who had been committed to Youth Development Centers, the study analyzed 85 juveniles by means of a court counselor survey, use of the Juvenile Tracking System for Youth Development Centers and the Administrative Office of the Court's ACIS database. Over a follow-up period that ranged from 2 ½ to 3 ½ years, this sample of juveniles had a recidivism rate of 21%.

6) In 2003, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention used a sample of 104 juveniles who had been adjudicated delinquent for a felony in the A-E class as indicated by their risk assessment instrument. Juveniles who had been committed to Youth Development Centers were excluded from analysis. The follow-up period for this study was almost an average of one year. This study found a recidivism rate of 14% for re-arrests and 7% for adjudication or conviction for an offense subsequent to the initial A-E felony. The average time to recidivate was 180 days.

In another North Carolina study regarding the recidivism of juvenile offenders, the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Committee has completed a preliminary analysis of the recidivism of juveniles into the adult system. Using a cohort of 2,062 juveniles for whom an initial delinquent petition was filed in 1997, they conducted a study of juvenile-to-adult recidivism with a follow-up period lasting approximately 5 years, ending in April 2003. From this cohort, thirty-two percent had a subsequent delinquent petition filed (n=661). During the five-year follow-up period, sixty-three percent were arrested with an "adult" charge, which can include traffic offenses. Forty-four percent of the cohort received "adult" fingerprinted arrests⁹ (Dawes et al. 2003) Other States that have tracked the criminal history of juvenile offenders for five periods have found similar results. Clements et al (2002) tracked 1,000 youth in Vermont for whom a delinquency petition was filed. After four years, some 57.3 percent had a new delinquency or criminal charge filed against them following the initial delinquency case. Interestingly, Clements and his colleagues re-examined the same sample after an additional year and found that after five years the recidivism rate for this cohort had increased to 62.2%. Clements et al speculate that each additional year of follow-up would result in a proportional increase the level of recidivism within the sample. Clements also found that 43% of his subjects recidivated within the first year.

The wider research literature reveals a vast array of articles relating to juvenile recidivism as an outcome measure for program evaluations, transfer decisions, clinical scale predictions, and risk assessment predictions.¹⁰ At least one researcher has attempted to synthesize most of the relevant studies relating to juvenile recidivism into one interpretable study using the statistical technique known as meta-analysis. Cottle, Lee and Heilbrun

⁹ What constitutes a "finger-printed" offense can vary from county-to-county. While all felony offenders are fingerprinted, counties differ in their practices regarding the fingerprinting of misdemeanor offenders.

¹⁰ See Bibliography for several selected studies. Excellent literature reviews on juvenile recidivism can be found in Cottle et al. (2001), Myner et al.(1998), Minor et al. (1997)

(2001) conducted a meta-analysis of 23 published studies on juvenile recidivism representing a sample size of 15,265 juveniles. From this study, perhaps some baseline figures for comparison can be drawn. From their sample, the average age in years was 14.7 with a range of 6 to 21 years of age. The sample was predominately male (83%). A total of 47.9% of their sample were white, 38.2% were black, and 18% were considered as “other.” The average length of follow-up was 45.3 months. The overall mean for recidivism as measured by re-arrest was 48%. These researchers analyzed 30 predictor variables that included demographics, offense history, family and social variables, education factors, intellectual and achievement scores, substance abuse history, clinical information, and formal risk assessments. Out of these 30 variables, the researchers found offense history was the strongest predictor of re-offending.

Methodological Issues

Starting Point

The study of recidivism among juvenile offenders presents several methodological and practical issues. One must first decide on the starting point from which one wishes to measure later criminal activity in order to determine the sample to be studied. Multiple decision-making points exist within the juvenile justice system from which to select the starting point. Generally, the starting point will immediately follow the decision-making process whose outcome is being measured. Using points later in the decision-making process will likely confound the data. For example, if the outcomes of intake decisions were being studied, then a study of probationers would not likely prove helpful. Even though the probationers would indeed have an intake history, the sample would be biased as it would have excluded diverted cases, non-adjudicated cases, and cases with other forms of disposition. For the purposes of this study, the starting point is non-problematic as it is directed by statute to sample those “juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent for offenses that would be Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felonies if committed by adults.”

Clearly, the completion of adjudication by the court marks the starting point for measurement activity. However, this starting point presents a dilemma as to what approach should be taken with juveniles who are committed to Youth Development Centers. The starting point for those juveniles committed to Youth Development Centers would be very different than for those who have remained in the community. For the present study, the starting point for juveniles who have remained in the community will be the completion of the adjudication hearing as evidenced by date of disposition. For those juveniles who were removed from the community, placed into Youth Development Centers, and subsequently returned to the community during the follow-up period, the starting point will be the release date from the Youth Development Center.

Definition

Another methodological consideration is determining what activities constitute recidivism. Recidivism can be understood as the subsequent criminal activity of an individual who has been known to have previously violated the law. Hence, one must consider what types of measures reveal the presence of criminal activity. A great deal of criminal activity goes unreported and can only be measured by self-report. However, many researchers will find the self-reports of offenders to be of dubious reliability given their propensity to be

dishonest. Hence, most researchers utilize official measures of criminal activity. The most common measure of criminal activity is arrest. The utility of arrest as a measure of recidivism is a philosophic perspective. For example, one may argue that this is the best indicator of criminal activity as it is closer in time to the actual event and not subject to the later court processes that may dismiss or redefine the activity. In contrast, one might argue that using convicted offenses would be a superior measure of criminal activity as it eliminates those who are not guilty and defines the activity based on the consideration of evidence. As a practical matter, the definition of what activities constitute recidivism seems driven in most instances by data availability and the focus of the starting point. The research literature reveals a wide variety of definitions used to measure the concept of recidivism. It is clear that there is not a standard manner in which juvenile recidivism has been defined. Some studies will use measures of re-arrest, such as subsequent complaint, to measure recidivism (e.g. Minor et al. 1997). Other studies will use reconviction measures, such as subsequent adjudication, or proven subsequent court appearance. (e.g. Carach and Leverette, 1999; Myner et al. 1998) Some studies use probation violation as a one of several dependent variables to measure recidivism. (e.g. Hoge et al. 1996). While others use recommitment to a facility as yet another measure. (e.g. Benda and Tollet, 1999). For the purposes of this study, the statute again provides direction on this issue. The statute defines recidivism as occurring whenever cases “subsequently are adjudicated delinquent or convicted.” It may be wise to report several measures of recidivism, such as re-arrest as evidenced by the filing of another complaint, as well as reconviction or adjudication of the subsequent offense as statutorily prescribed.

Follow-Up Period

Another issue in the study of recidivism is the determination of an appropriate follow-up period. The follow-up period is the amount of time that one tracks recidivism after the starting point. The study of recidivism is mostly retrospective in nature. From the starting point, a sufficient amount of time must elapse in order for the study subjects to recidivate. Hence, the starting point will always be at a fixed time in the past, where a baseline is established. The average length of time to failure (recidivism) is often reported as a statistic to measure the length of time that offenders can remain in the community before recidivating. The length of time selected for a follow-up period can impact the outcome of the mean time to failure, as well as the percentage of the sample that will be considered recidivists. Generally, the longer the period of follow-up, then the larger the recidivism rate will be and the longer the mean time to failure. This is true because there is an increased opportunity to identify recidivists, and a greater range in the number of days from which to calculate the mean. Correspondingly, if one has a shorter period of follow-up, then the recidivism rate might be lower and the mean time to failure will be of a shorter duration. Note that Clements (2002) discovered a sizable increase in the level of recidivism among juveniles in Vermont by simply adding an additional year of follow-up. Schmidt and Witte (1988) point out that researchers can manipulate the duration of time frames for follow-up to “censor” high concentrations of recidivist activity. As a practical matter, again, most study follow-up periods are driven by the availability of data sources. This will be the case for our study, as we have chosen the court counselor risk assessment as one of our data sources. This risk assessment data was collected electronically beginning in July 2001. If one uses January 2004 as the cut-off point to measure the recidivism for a risk assessment

cohort from fiscal year 2001-2002 then the maximum number of months available for follow-up is thirty, or about two and a half years. There was no statutory directive regarding the duration of time frames for analysis. Using the Cottle et al. (2001) meta-analysis, the average for most studies is at least three years. Further, as Clements (2002) demonstrated, the Remembering that the study of recidivism is retrospective, the emergence of better juvenile justice data sources in recent years will still require some time for a longer-term duration analysis.

Severity of Criminal Activities

Another issue in the study of recidivism is the comparison of severity levels between the criminal activities that mark the starting point with later criminal acts. Recidivism is often expressed in terms of occurrence or nonoccurrence, when reduction of severity in subsequent criminal activity may also be a revealing perspective. This is particularly true if the purpose is to evaluate activities that may be occurring at any particular starting point. For this study, we will attempt to compare the level of severity of subsequent offenses to the original A-E felony offense using an Index developed for use in the Juvenile Tracking System.

Comparability of Studies

Caution is urged when comparing studies. Legal distinctions make cross-state comparisons difficult. Further, comparisons of different years can be complicated by the historical events, such as legal reforms, etc. Finally, different methodologies and conceptual definitions can impair the comparability of studies.

Data Sources and Methods

The present study re-examines the recidivism of the felony A-E cohort identified from the fiscal year 2001-2002. The re-examination of this cohort is desirable for several methodological and practical reasons.

- First, it allows for a longer follow-up period that is more consistent with the average time noted by Cottle et al.(2001). An additional year of follow-up allows for the analysis of continued criminality within the same cohort.
- A longer follow-up period allows for an examination of the juveniles who had been placed into a Youth Development Center for an A-E felony offense during fiscal year 2001-2002 and subsequently returned to the community during our follow-up period. Only two Youth Development Center releases were added to our sample last year due to the short follow-up period. This short time for follow-up can only minimize the contributions that that juveniles released from Youth Development Centers may later make in terms of re-offense.
- The addition of these cases increases the sample size, which can make statistical inference more meaningful. The small sample size for recidivists from the previous year's study did not allow for meaningful comparisons along dimensions of risk.

The first stage of our study was conducted in April 2003 using the following methodology:

In order to identify the juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies, researchers used the risk assessment data that had been collected electronically from court counselors since July 1, 2001. Risk Assessments are calculated for each juvenile at disposition following adjudication for a delinquent offense. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention developed the risk assessment instrument in collaboration with criminal justice researchers from the Jordan Institute at the University of North Carolina. The risk assessment is composed of nine items that describe delinquency history or behavior and that have a strong statistical association with juvenile recidivism in other jurisdictions. An overview of the risk assessment instrument, a sample form, and scoring instructions are presented in Appendix B. This data source was selected for several reasons. First, the instrument has as one of its components the identification of offense class, making the identification of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies a fairly simple process. Second, it is the only case-level data for juvenile court records that has been kept electronically in a uniform fashion statewide for duration of time longer than six months that would allow for a sufficient examination of recidivism.¹¹ Third, this dataset represented the first data collection measuring the recidivism of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies, following the implementation of the new juvenile code. Fourth, this instrument can provide a framework for consistently conducting this study in future years. Hence, with a consistent methodology, the comparison of reports should be more meaningful. Finally, the nine item scales provide a richer description of this cohort of juveniles along dimensions that purportedly are associated with recidivism.

Using the risk assessment, researchers extracted data on juveniles for whom the indicated offense class at disposition was within the Felony A-E categories from July 1, 2001 until June 30, 2002. This data extraction yielded information on 211 juveniles. This dataset forms the basis for the development of our cohort of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies. From this dataset, 85 juveniles had been committed to a Youth Development Center because they had a level-three disposition code (This is the most serious risk offense level).. For each juvenile who had a level three disposition indicated in the risk assessment data, the Juvenile Tracking System was used to verify that they were committed to a secure facility and remained there during the follow-up period in 2003. Two juveniles were released from a Youth Development Center during the during the two year follow-up period and were replaced into the cohort group. After eliminating these 83 students from the dataset, a cohort sample of 128 potential juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies remained.

From this point, researchers used the cohort dataset to populate a coding sheet, which was sent to the court counselor who had worked with a specific juvenile. The coding sheet and instructions are presented in Appendix C. In the coding sheet, researchers asked court counselors for the following information:

¹¹ The first phase of North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN) was deployed in May 2003. This first phase included intake process. The second phase that includes risk assessment information and adjudication information was deployed in November 2003. The continued presence of the risk assessment within NC-JOIN makes the risk instrument worthwhile to use at this point. With the second phase of NC-JOIN, the methodology of this study may be enhanced with additional and better data. However, as recidivism is always a retrospective pursuit, it will be sometime after phase two of NC-JOIN before the statewide system can fully address the study of recidivism as it is currently prescribed by statute.

- to verify the A-E Felony offense,
- to indicate if this offense was committed with companions or had family members as victims.
- to indicate if the court counselor had received any further delinquent complaints on the selected juvenile, and if there had been a resultant adjudication of delinquency.
- to indicate if the juvenile had moved out of the jurisdiction. For those juveniles who had transferred to another county, researchers contacted the chief court counselor or supervisor in their current location to determine if there had been any subsequent filings of delinquency. Additionally, researchers used the Juvenile Tracking System to search the name of juveniles in the cohort sample to determine if they had been committed to a Youth Development Center due to a revocation of their court supervision in lieu of new charges.

During the initial data collection, several cases were eliminated from the dataset due to miscodes or missing data. Further, two cases were not retained in juvenile court, but were transferred to superior court for trial as adults. Since no formal adjudication had occurred for these two juveniles, they were also eliminated from the dataset. This process formed the data set for the previous year's report.

The second stage of our research involved the re-examination of this cohort. In January 2004, researchers used the Juvenile Tracking System to determine which juveniles in our cohort had been committed or released from a Youth Development Center. Forty-four juveniles were released from Youth Development Centers during our follow-up period. Those juveniles were added into the dataset and along with their release date.

Following this, NC-JOIN was used to determine if any members of the cohort had received a delinquent complaint during our follow-up period. Given that the average age of our sample was now 17 years old, there were relatively few complaints discovered. In a few cases, it was not recorded if the complaint had been formally adjudicated. In these circumstances, the court counselor was contacted by email to verify the legal status of the complaint.

After determining each juvenile in the cohort dataset who was sixteen years of age or older, researchers used the Administrative Office of the Court's Automated Criminal and Infraction System (ACIS) to perform a state-wide search of criminal records and recorded offense information for juveniles from the cohort who had a record in the adult system.¹² This report will focus on two types of recidivism among the sample of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies.

- Re-arrest: The study will report on recidivism based upon the filing of a new delinquent complaint subsequent to the disposition for the original felony A-E offense. In addition, the study will report recidivism as mandated by statute, which reports those juveniles from the sample that subsequently are adjudicated

¹² The author wishes to personally acknowledge and thank the Forsyth County Clerk of Court, Terry Holbrook and his employees for their assistance in using the ACIS system in 2003 and 2004.

delinquent or convicted. This is essentially a measure of reconviction. This sample will be a subset of the re-arrest category.

- Time to Failure: The study will report on the numbers of days elapsed from the disposition date of the original felony A-E offense until re-offense or re-arrest.

Results

Characteristics of the A-E Felony Cohort

This study had a dataset of 147 juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies, who remained in, or were returned to the community, and for whom recidivism could be measured.

Table 1 provides a rank-order of the offense categories that comprise the cohort of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies. The most common offense among the cohort was Armed Robbery. In Table 1, an offense-type was assigned to each of the offenses within the A-E class to make further analysis more interpretable to the reader. For example, all of the sexual offenses were collapsed into the offense type, Felony Sex Offense. The various forms of assault with a deadly weapon were also collapsed into one category, Felony Assault. The remaining categories were discrete in their nature and left as their own offense category.

Table 1
Rank Order Of Class A-E Offenses Within Sample

Offense	Offense Class	Frequency	Percentage	Offense Type
Armed Robbery/attempted armed robbery	D	35	23.8%	Armed Robbery
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	B1	26	17.7%	Felony Sex Offense
Sexual Offense, 2nd Degree	C	17	11.6%	Felony Sex Offense
Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	B2	17	11.6%	Felony Sex Offense
Assault w/dw inflicting serious injury	E	13	8.8%	Felony Assault
Rape, 2nd Degree	C	7	4.8%	Felony Sex Offense
Rape, 1st Degree	B1	7	4.8%	Felony Sex Offense
Kidnapping, 1st Degree	C	5	3.4%	Kidnapping
Burglary, 1st Degree	D	5	3.4%	Burglary
Assault w/dw w/itk	E	4	2.7%	Felony Assault
Arson, 1st Degree	D	4	2.7%	Arson
Assault w/dw w/itk inflict serious injury	C	3	2.0%	Felony Assault
Manslaughter, Voluntary	E	2	1.4%	Manslaughter
Murder, 2nd Degree	B2	1	0.7%	Murder, 2nd Degree
Discharging firearm into occupied property	E	1	0.7%	Weapons Offense

Table 2 provides frequencies for the collapsed categories. By far, felony sex offenses were most frequent among juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies. This offense accounted for slightly over fifty percent of the sample. The next most frequent offense in the sample was armed robbery (23.8%), followed by felony assaults (13.6%).

Table 2
Frequency Distribution Of Offense Type

Offense Type	Count	Percentage
Armed Robbery	35	23.8%
Arson	4	2.7%
Burglary	5	3.4%
Felony Assault	20	13.6%
Felony Sex Offense	74	50.3%
Kidnapping	5	3.4%
Manslaughter	2	1.4%
Murder, 2nd Degree	1	0.7%
Weapons Offense	1	0.7%
Totals	147	100.0%

The demographic breakdown of the sample reveals that the cohort was overwhelmingly male: 136 males (92.5 percent of sample) as opposed to eleven females (7.5 percent of the sample). In terms of ethnicity, there were 62 whites (42.2 percent) in the sample, 79 African-Americans (53.7 percent), and six (4.1 percent) that were classified as “other.”¹³ The average age of the sample at the point of our 2004 data collection was 17.1 years of age. The ages ranged from thirteen years to nineteen years. Table 3 provides a demographic breakdown of offense type by gender and ethnicity. Besides the obvious gender disparities, it is noteworthy that it appears that white males were the most frequent offenders for sexual offenses, while African-Americans were the most frequent offenders for armed robbery.

Table 3
Demographics Of The A-E Felony Cohort

Offense Type	Males n=136			Females n=11			Row Total
	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	White	
Armed Robbery	30	2	2	1	0	0	35
Arson	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Burglary	3	0	2	0	0	0	5
Felony Assault	8	2	4	5	0	1	20
Felony Sex Offense	28	2	44	0	0	0	74
Kidnapping	1	0	2	2	0	0	5
Manslaughter	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Murder, 2nd Degree	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Weapons Offense	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Column Total	70	6	60	9	0	2	147

¹³ The “other” category included Latino, Multi-racial and Other categories. Because there were only six, we collapsed the category to assist with interpretation of the data.

In order to determine the victim/offender relationship, researchers had asked court counselors to indicate if a family member was a victim during the commission of the A-E felony offense. For juveniles who had been committed to YDCs victimization information was obtained through data kept in the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). Table 4 presents the level of family member victimization by offense-type. Twenty-four percent of the offenses in the sample involve the victimization of family members. Interestingly, thirty-one out of seventy-four (42%) incidents of sexual assault involved the victimization of family members. The victim/offender relationship among juvenile sex offenders is an area that merits further scrutiny. If a large amount of sexual offending among juveniles is intra-familial, then this may have implications for treatment and prevention efforts.¹⁴

Table 4
Victimization Of Family Members By A-E Felony Offense Type

	No	Unknown	Yes	Total
Kidnapping	4	1	0	5
Armed Robbery	35	0	0	35
Arson	3	1	0	4
Burglary	4	0	1	5
Felony Assault	18	0	2	20
Felony Sex Offense	38	5	31	74
Manslaughter	1	0	1	2
Murder, 2nd Degree	0	0	1	1
Weapons Offense	1	0	0	1
Total	104	7	36	147

Recidivism within the A-E Felony Cohort

Of 147 cases examined, forty-one youth received a delinquent complaint or an arrest subsequent to their adjudication for a class A-E felony during the follow-up period. This indicates that the percentage of the sample that was re-arrested was 28%. Out of these forty-one youth, seventeen had a subsequent delinquent complaint and twenty-four had adult charges. Of the forty-one youth who were re-arrested, ten of the youth had previously been in a Youth Development Center. Out of these 41 youth, twenty-one were later formally adjudicated delinquent or convicted in adult court. This indicates that the recidivism as measured by the statutory definition was 14.3%. Of the twenty-one youth who were adjudicated or convicted of a subsequent offense, three youth had previously been in a Youth Development Center. There were 10 cases that were still pending trial at the time of data collection. While these 10 cases are certainly represented in the re-arrest category, their status towards inclusion in the re-conviction category cannot be established at the present time due to their pending status.

¹⁴ Minor (2002) has conducted research regarding the recidivism of juvenile sex offenders, which indicated that the risk for re-offense increased with involvement with younger children and younger age at first offense. Given the apparent intra-familial nature of many of the sample's offenders, it stands to reason that these risk factors are likely to be present.

Table Five
Demographics of Sample with a Subsequent Delinquent Complaint or Criminal Arrest

	Male	Female	Row Total
Black	26	1	27
White	14	0	14
Column Total	40	1	41

Table 5 presents the demographics of the cohort that received a subsequent delinquent complaint or criminal arrest. The average age for the group was 17 years old with a range of 14 years to 18 years. This group was almost exclusively male with only one female included in the group. This group was sixty-six percent African American and thirty-four percent were white. None of the individuals whose ethnicity was characterized as “other” received a subsequent delinquent complaint or adult charge.

Table Six
Demographics of Sample with Adjudication/Conviction of a Subsequent Delinquent Complaint or Criminal Arrest

	Male	Female	Row Total
Black	11	1	12
White	9	0	9
Column Total	20	1	21

Table 6 presents the demographics of those with the sample that had been adjudicated or convicted of a subsequent delinquent complaint or criminal arrest. The average age for this group was 16.7 with a range of 14 years to 18 years. The table reveals that 98% of the sample was male with only one female present in the group. Among those who were convicted or adjudicated for a subsequent offense, 57% were African American and 43% were white.

Table 7 presents the progression of offenses among sample juveniles charged with new offenses, listing the original A-E felony offense, the new offense and the adjudicated offense where applicable. Among juveniles in the sample charged with a new offense, the most frequent prior A-E offense was armed robbery (n=18, 44%). Of the 41 sample juveniles charged with a new offense, 30 charges were misdemeanor offenses (two charges were in the A1 Misdemeanor class, four were traffic offenses), 11 offenses were felonies; including three offenses that were in the A-E felony class (three for Armed Robbery and one for Sexual Offense, Second Degree). The most frequently occurring new offense among this group of recidivists was simple assault (n=9). For the twenty-one juveniles from this group that were ultimately adjudicated or convicted, sixteen were adjudicated or convicted for misdemeanors and 5 for felonies, one of which was a Class C Felony (Sexual Offense, Second Degree).

Table 7
Progression Of Offenses Among Sample Juveniles With New Offenses

A-E Felony	New Arrest/ Complaint	Convicted/ Adjudicated Offense	SEX	RACE	DAYS TO REOFFEND
Armed Robbery	Driving without license	Driving without license	M	B	641
Armed Robbery	Concealed weapons	Concealed weapons	M	B	141
Armed Robbery	Larceny, misdemeanor		M	B	198
Armed Robbery	Assault on an officer or employee of the state	Assault on an officer or employee of the state	M	B	658
Armed Robbery	Armed Robbery/attempted armed robbery		M	B	77
Armed Robbery	Trespassing, 2nd Degree		M	B	741
Armed Robbery	Possession of controlled substance, misdemeanor		M	B	752
Armed Robbery	Communicating threats	Communicating Threats	M	W	7
Armed Robbery	Possession of controlled substance, misdemeanor		M	B	272
Armed Robbery	Simple assault	Simple Assault	M	B	161
Armed Robbery	Simple assault		M	B	267
Armed Robbery	Driving without license	Driving without license	M	B	0
Armed Robbery	Possession of controlled substance, felony		M	B	180
Armed Robbery	Possession of weapon on school grounds, felony	Possession of weapon on school grounds, felony	M	B	93
Armed Robbery	Assault inflicting serious injury	Simple Assault	M	B	23
Armed Robbery	Armed Robbery/attempted armed robbery		M	B	71
Armed Robbery	Possession of controlled substance, misdemeanor	Possession of controlled substance, misdemeanor	M	B	223
Armed Robbery	Driving without license		M	B	108
Arson, 1st Degree	Simple assault	Simple Assault	M	W	146
Arson, 1st Degree	Larceny,	Larceny,Misdemeanor	M	W	198

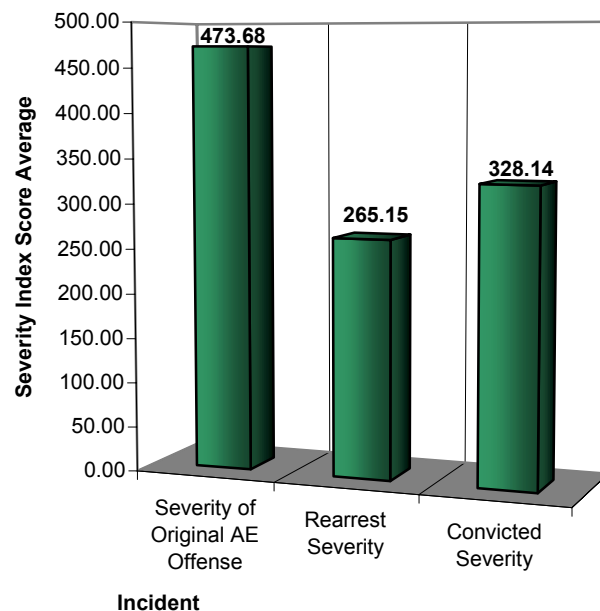
	misdemeanor				
Assault w/dw inflicting serious injury	Possession of stolen vehicle		M	B	174
Assault w/dw w/itk	Larceny, felony	Larceny, felony	M	B	617
Assault w/dw w/itk inflict serious injury	Possession of controlled substance, felony	Possession of controlled substance, felony	M	B	498
Assault w/dw w/itk inflict serious injury	Injury to personal property	Injury to personal property	F	B	444
Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	Communicating threats	Communicating threats	M	W	503
Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	Simple assault	Simple assault	M	W	613
Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	Injury to personal property		M	B	6
Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	Felonious possession of stolen goods		M	W	635
Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	Injury to personal property	Injury to personal property	M	W	523
Burglary, 1 st Degree	Simple assault		M	W	432
Burglary, 1 st Degree	Sexual Offense, 2nd Degree	Sexual Offense, 2nd Degree	M	B	17
Rape, 1st Degree	Speeding	Speeding	M	W	246
Rape, 2nd Degree	Larceny, felony	Larceny, Felony	M	W	315
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Simple assault	Simple assault	M	W	228
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Larceny, misdemeanor		M	B	193
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Larceny, felony		M	B	539
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Simple assault		M	W	220
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Simple assault		M	W	312
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Harrassing phone calls		M	B	139
Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	Injury to personal property		M	W	83
Sexual Offense, 2nd Degree	Simple assault		M	B	476

From casual inspection of Table 7, it is apparent that, in most instances, offenses subsequent to the original felony A-E offense are generally less serious. Applying an index used in the Juvenile Tracking System to determine an offender's "most serious offense",

we assigned a severity score to each offense to compare offense severity.¹⁵ The Severity Index that we used to compare offense severity is presented in Appendix D. Chart One presents a comparison of Average Severity Scores for the Cohort Recidivists. The average severity index score for the original AE offense was 473.6. The average severity index score for the subsequent re-offense as measured by re-arrest was substantially lower at 265.15. The average severity index score for those offenders who were re-convicted was higher than the re-arrest score.

Chart 1

Comparison of Average Severity Index Scores for Cohort Recidivists

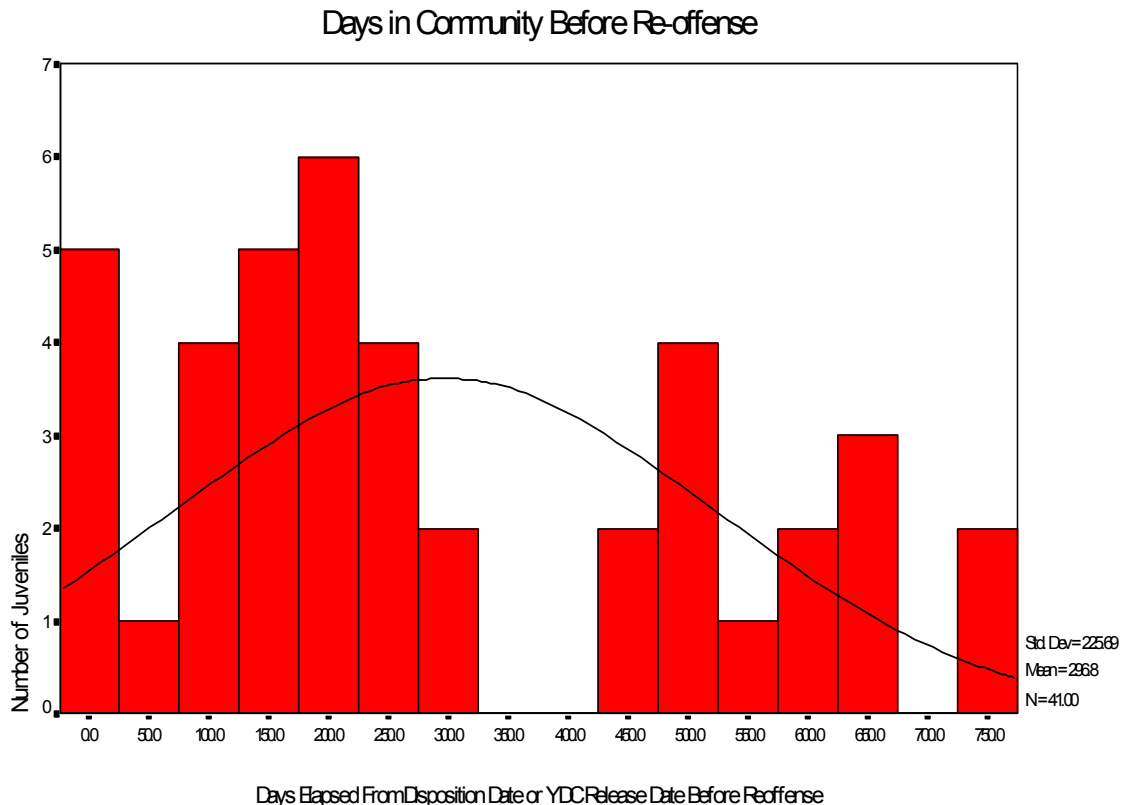


This study also sought to measure the amount of time elapsed in the community from when a juvenile adjudicated for a class A-E felony committed a new offense during the follow-up period. This is typically referred to as “time to failure.” For offenders who had remained in the community during the follow-up period, the date of disposition from court was used to measure the number of days in the community. For those offenders that had been returned to the community from Youth Development Centers, the date of release was used to measure the number of days in the community. From the sample, the mean time in the community until re-offense was 297 days. The median time until re-offense was 223 days. The time elapsed in the community until re-offense ranged from zero days to a maximum of 752 days. For the offenders that had been in Youth Development Centers, the mean number of days until re-offense was 122 days. For offenders that had remained in the community, the mean number of days until re-offense was 297 days. The difference in mean number of days until re-offense between the Youth Development Center offenders

¹⁵ A code-table in the Juvenile Tracking System attaches a legal severity score. In the JTS table, lower values were assigned to more severe offenses. To make this more interpretable in our context, we resorted the scores to assign larger values to more severe offenses.

and the rest of the sample may be partially attributable to the fact that the average follow-up period for those offenders from Youth Development Centers was shorter than the sample average. Chart Two graphs the number of days that recidivists remained in the community before re-offense. This chart reveals a somewhat bimodal distribution, which would suggest that there are two groups of recidivists: one that re-offends within the first year and another that will not recidivate until much later.

Chart 2
Days In The Community Until Re-Offense



Risk Factors for the A-E Felony Cohort

To compare risk factors with the A-E Felony Cohort, we compared the mean score for each risk factor for the following groups:

- a) Statewide, the juveniles with Disposition Dates in Fiscal Year 01-02;
- b) A-E Felony Cohort, the sample of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies and;
- c) Re-arrestees, the sample of juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Class A-E felonies who received a new complaint or arrest during our follow-up period.

These groups are compared across the following risk factors:

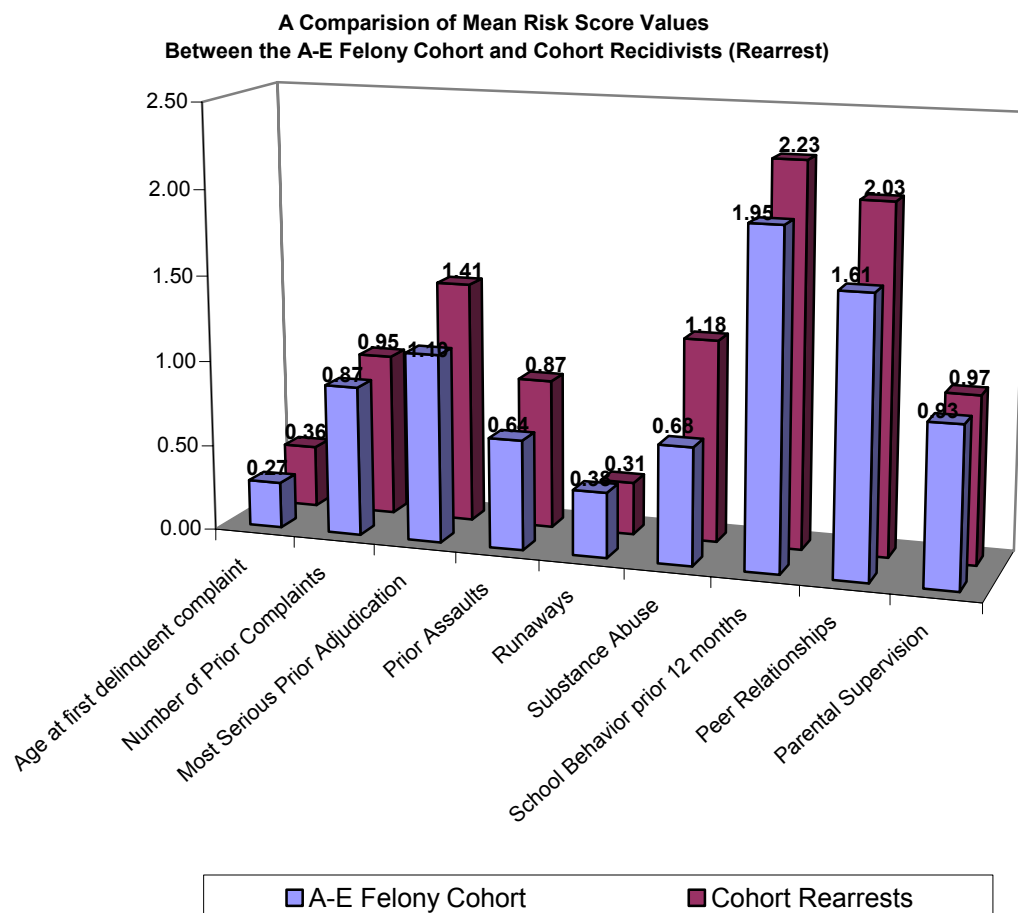
1. Age at first delinquent complaint
2. Number of Prior Complaints
3. Most Serious Prior Adjudication
4. Prior Assaults
5. Runaways

6. Substance Abuse
7. School Behavior prior 12 months
8. Peer Relationships
9. Parental Supervision
10. Total Risk Score

The results of this analysis are presented in Appendix E. The coding values used for each risk factor are also included in the summary tables in Appendix E.

Chart Three presents a summary comparison of the mean risk scores between the A-E felony cohort and the forty-one juvenile offenders that received a delinquent complaint or an arrest subsequent to their adjudication for a class A-E felony during the follow-up period. There are substantial increases in the following risk factors for the recidivist group: Most Serious Prior Adjudication, Prior Assaults, Substance Abuse, School Behavior and Peer Relationships. The most substantial increase between the two groups was for Substance Abuse.

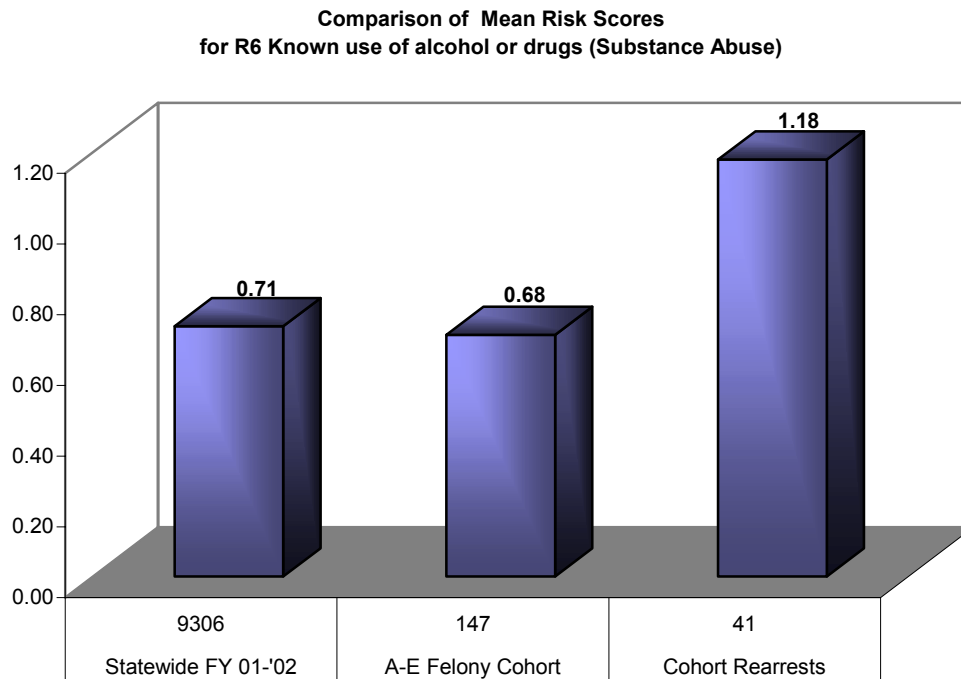
Chart 3



The difference in mean risk factor scores for substance abuse between the cohort and recidivists is an area that merits further examination. The coding values for this particular risk factor are as follows: No known substance use=0; some substance use, need for further

assessment=1; Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed=3. The difference between the two mean scores (0.68 for cohort and 1.18 for recidivists) represents a 72 percent increase for this risk factor. Chart Four depicts the magnitude of these differences. Certainly, further research is warranted to determine if this is a finding that will be replicated with other data involving the recidivism of serious juvenile offenders.

Chart Four



Conclusion

Out of a sample of 147 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent for offenses that would be Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felonies if committed by adults during the fiscal year 2001-2002, there were 41 who received a subsequent complaint or arrest. Out of these 41 juveniles there were 21 who were subsequently adjudicated or convicted of this offense. The subsequent offenses of these juveniles were generally less serious in terms of legal severity. The mean time to commit a new offense or be arrested was 297 days. There appears to be one group of juveniles who will re-offend within the first year that is distinct for the other group that will re-offend much later. Among dimensions of risk, it is notable that the dimension that measures substance abuse saw the greatest increase in score from the cohort group to the recidivist group.

Future studies of recidivism may want to examine the recidivism of other delinquent groups. Specifically, one may want to look at recidivism generally among the population of juveniles referred to juvenile court, as well as the wider post-release recidivism of Youth Development Center admissions.

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Appendix A

NORTH CAROLINA JUVENILE CODE

SUBCHAPTER III. JUVENILE RECORDS

ARTICLE 33.

Computation of Recidivism Rates.

§ 7B-3300. Juvenile recidivism rates.

(a) On an annual basis, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention shall compute the recidivism rate of juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent for offenses that would be Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felonies if committed by adults and who subsequently are adjudicated delinquent or convicted and shall report the statistics to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by February 15 each year.

(b) The chief court counselor of each judicial district shall forward to the Department relevant information, as determined by the Department, regarding every juvenile who is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felony if committed by an adult for the purpose of computing the statistics required by this section. (1997-443, s. 18.15(a); 1998-212, s. 16.2; 1998-202, s. 6; 2000-137, s. 3.)

APPENDIX B

OVERVIEW

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Juvenile Assessment Procedures

- What: Completion of the juvenile risk assessment and the juvenile/family needs assessment.
- When: Both risk and juvenile/family needs assessment instruments prior to a disposition hearing, either before or after adjudication. The juvenile/family needs assessment will be completed no less than every 90 days while a juvenile is being supervised.
- Why: For use by judges in assigning youth to disposition options allowed by the Dispositional Chart (N.C.G.S. § 7B-2508(f)). For use by DJJDP staff in developing effective case plans.

Juvenile Risk Assessment

The juvenile risk assessment was developed by a focus group composed of DJJDP staff and criminal justice researchers. The group reviewed risk assessment instruments from several other jurisdictions prior to recommending this assessment. The risk assessment is composed of nine items that describe delinquency history or behavior. Each of these items demonstrated a strong statistical relationship to juvenile recidivism in other jurisdictions. The nine risk items are summed and the risk classification assigned based on the juvenile's total risk score; that is, a high-risk case has a higher total risk score than a low risk case. In studies conducted in other jurisdictions, high risk juvenile offenders have proven to be three or four times more likely to be referred for new offenses than low risk cases. Consequently, the risk classification is based on the juvenile's total risk score relative to other juveniles. Risk assessment is one of the most important managerial tools in the model classification system recommended by the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) because it links the amount of service intervention and supervision a juvenile receives to the risk they pose to public safety.

The operating assumption for allocating supervision and intervention according to criminal risk is a simple one. Agencies have limited staff resources for providing supervision and it makes sense to supervise high-risk juveniles, who are most likely to re-offend, much more closely than low risk juveniles. This strategy is central to effective case management and it is based on research studies that observed the impact of supervision on criminal behavior. These studies indicate that criminal activity among high-risk youth may be reduced by 50% if they are provided more active supervision involving more frequent

contact by court officers and more active case management.¹⁶ Consequently, matching the level of case intervention to the risk of re-offending permits agencies to reduce crime and supports effective efforts to rehabilitate juvenile offenders.

Juvenile Needs Assessment

This assessment was also developed by a work group composed of DJJDP court counselors who reviewed numerous similar instruments prior to developing this one. The needs assessment is a structured instrument which asks court counselors to systematically identify the needs of a juvenile in 10 different domains, including peer relationships, substance abuse, school behavior, etc. The needs in the youth's family are also assessed.

The scores shown for each needs assessment item reflect the ranking assigned by the work group. Items that define areas of functioning viewed as most difficult to manage and most difficult for successful intervention during supervision are assigned the highest scores. The item scores are summed to a total needs score and a corresponding needs classification is assigned. Juveniles with high levels of need demonstrate more problematic behaviors and require more service intervention and counselor effort to supervise. The instrument is carefully structured to encourage consistent and reliable assessment. In effect, different court counselors scoring the same juvenile should reach a similar result. The objective nature of the assessment also provides court counselors with reliable procedures for identifying the critical issues that must be addressed in the case plan to deter future delinquent behavior. These priority needs become the focus of the juvenile's case plan and specific interventions are planned to address them.

¹⁶ Eisenberg, Michael and Gregory Markley, "Something Works in Community Supervision," Federal Probation, Vol. 51, No. 4, 1987. Baird, Heinz, and Bemus, "A Two Year Follow-Up on the Wisconsin Case Classification Project," American Correctional Association Monograph (1981).

NORTH CAROLINA ASSESSMENT OF JUVENILE RISK OF FUTURE OFFENDING

Juvenile Name (F, M, L)		DOB:
SS#:	County of Residence:	
Juvenile Race: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-		
Juvenile Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Date Assessment Completed:	Completed by:	

Instructions: Complete each assessment item R1 to R9 using the best available information. Circle the numeric score associated with each item response and enter it on the line to the right of the item. Total the item scores to determine the level of risk and check the appropriate risk level in R10. Identify the most serious current offense in R11..

- R1. Age when first delinquent offense alleged in a complaint:** Circle appropriate score and enter the actual age.

	Score	
a. Age 12 or over or no delinquent complaint	0	
b. Under age 12	2	
Actual age:		

- R2. Number of undisciplined or delinquent referrals to Intake** (Referrals are instances of complaints coming through the Intake process. A referral may include multiple complaints; for example, breaking or entering and larceny, or multiple larcenies or other offenses that occur at one time.)

a. Current referral only	0
b. 1 Prior referral	1
c. 2-3 Prior referrals	2
d. 4+ Prior referrals	3

- R3. Most serious prior adjudication(s).** Enter the actual number of prior adjudications for each class of offense shown in b through e then circle the score for only the **most serious** offense for which there has been a prior adjudication. **The maximum possible score for this item is 4.**

a. No Prior Adjudications		0
b. Prior Undisciplined	# of adjudications:	1
c. Prior Class 1-3 misdemeanors	# of adjudications:	2
d. Prior Class F-I felonies or A1 misdemeanors	# of adjudications:	3
e. Prior Class A-E felonies	# of adjudications:	4

- R4 Prior Assaults:** "Assault" is defined as any assaultive behavior, whether physical or sexual, with or without a weapon as evidenced by a prior delinquent complaint. Record the number of complaints for each assault category shown. Then circle the score for the assault category with the highest numerical score. **The maximum possible score for this item is 5.**

a. No assaults		0
b. Involvement in an affray	# of complaints:	1
c. Yes, without a weapon	# of complaints:	2
d. Yes, without a weapon, inflicting serious injury	# of complaints	3
e. Yes, with a weapon	# of complaints:	4

f. Yes, with a weapon inflicting serious injury	# of complaints:		5
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R5. Runaways (from home or placement): “Runaway” is defined as absconding from home or any placement and not voluntarily returning within twenty-four (24) hours as evidenced

by a complaint, motion for review, or from reliable information. Circle appropriate score.

a. No	0
b. Yes	2
Actual number of runaway incidents	

R6. Known use of alcohol or illegal drugs during past 12 months: Do not include tobacco in scoring this item. Circle appropriate score.

a. No known substance use	0
b. Some substance use, need for further assessment	1
c. Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed	3

R7. School behavior problems during the prior 12 months: Circle appropriate score.

a. No problems (Enrolled, attending regularly)	0
b. Minor problems (attending with problems handled by teacher/school personnel, or 1-3 unexcused absences/truancy)	1
c. Moderate problems (4 to 10 unexcused absences /truancy, or 1 or more in-school suspensions or 1 short-term suspension – up to 10 days)	2
d. Serious problems (more than 1 short-term suspension, or 1 or more long-term suspension, or more than 10 unexcused absences or expelled/dropped out)	3

R8. Peer relationships: Circle appropriate score. Put check in the line following appropriate information.

a. Peers usually provide good support and influence	0
b. Youth is rejected by pro-social peers ____, or youth sometimes associates with others who have been involved in delinquent/criminal activity but is not primary peer group ____	1
c. Youth regularly associates with others who are involved in delinquent/criminal activity	3
d. Youth is a gang member ____ or associates with a gang ____	5

R9. Parental supervision: (Score the current responsible parental authority) Circle appropriate score.

a. Parent, guardian or custodian willing and able to supervise	0
b. Parent, guardian or custodian willing but unable to supervise	2
c. Parent, guardian or custodian unwilling to supervise	3

R10.TOTAL RISK SCORE	
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Check Risk Level: ☐ Low risk (0-7) ☐ Medium Risk (8-14) ☐ High Risk (15+)

R11. Completed before or after adjudication: (check) before ____ after ____

Most serious offense alleged /adjudicated in current complaint/petition		
	Statute number	
Class offense: <input type="checkbox"/> A-E Felony <input type="checkbox"/> F-I Felony, A1 Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Class 1-3 Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Undisciplined		

Note: Risk level is to be considered along with the current offense

COMMENTS:

NORTH CAROLINA ASSESSMENT OF JUVENILE RISK OF FUTURE OFFENDING DEFINITIONS

Risk Assessment Scoring Instructions

Court counselors should employ all credible information to complete each risk assessment item. These sources include, but are not limited to: direct observation of the case, self-report information from the juvenile, family members, third parties (e.g., school personnel, employers, relatives outside of the immediate family), reports from official agencies, and the results of formal assessment or evaluation procedures. Every reasonable effort should be made to collect information necessary to accurately complete the assessment and the item definitions should be carefully applied. Information about delinquent history obtained from juveniles during interviews should be employed if the court counselor believes it to be credible.

After completing the top section of the risk assessment form, the court counselor scores each item, R1 through R9, using the definitions for the risk assessment provided below. For informational purposes, the court counselor also records exact numbers or age when specified. When each item has been scored, the total risk score is entered by the counselor in R10. Based on the total score, the counselor checks low (0 to 7), medium (8 to 14), or high (15 or more) as the scored risk level in R10. The counselor also records the offense, statute number, and class of offense of the most serious offense alleged in the current complaint or adjudication in R11. The instrument may be completed after an adjudicatory hearing, but must be completed before the disposition hearing. Indicate the completion status in R11.

R1. Age when first delinquent offense alleged in a complaint

Age of the juvenile at the time the first delinquent offense occurred for which an allegation was made in a delinquent complaint. Do not round up (e.g., 12 years 7 months equals 12). Circle the applicable score and post it on the item score line.

- a. Age 12 or over or no delinquent complaint. “No delinquent complaint” is appropriate for an undisciplined juvenile who has had no delinquent complaints.
- b. Under age 12. The juvenile is “Under age 12” if the first complaint in which an offense was alleged occurred prior to his or her 12th birthday.

Actual age: Enter in the box provided, the juvenile’s age at the time the first delinquent offense occurred for which a **delinquent** complaint was filed.

R2. Number of undisciplined or delinquent referrals to Intake

Referrals are instances of complaints coming through the Intake process. A referral may include multiple complaints. For example, breaking or entering and larceny, multiple larcenies, or multiple other offenses that occur at one time (i.e., on the same date) are counted as a single referral. Circle the applicable score associated with the following definitions.

- a. Current referral only. (The referral which caused the assessment to be conducted.)
- b. 1 Prior referral.
- c. 2-3 Prior referrals.
- d. 4 or more Prior referrals.

R3. Most serious prior adjudication(s)

Record the actual number of prior adjudications for each offense class shown in b through e. The score is based only on the **most serious** offense for which a prior adjudication(s) was indicated. If the youth's prior adjudication history included two undisciplined and one class A-E felony, the counselor should enter 2 after the number of adjudications in R3b and 1 after the number of adjudications in R3e. The score for this case would be 4 because the most serious offense was the class A-E felony. A prior adjudication is any offense that is adjudicated before the offense being considered for disposition. Out of state adjudications are to be scored using the same definitional procedures outlined in 7B-2507 for the delinquency history level. The maximum possible score for this item is 4.

- a. No prior adjudication. (No adjudication prior to the current court hearing.)
- b. Undisciplined.
- c. Class 1-3 misdemeanor.
- d. Class F-I felonies or A1 misdemeanors.
- e. Class A-E felonies.

R4. Prior Assaults

"Assault" is defined as any assaultive behavior, whether physical or sexual, with or without a weapon as evidenced by a prior delinquent complaint. Record the number of prior complaints for each assault category listed in R4b through f. Score **only the assault** which qualifies for the most points (e.g., If a juvenile had 2 prior assaults without a weapon (with no injury) and 1 prior assault with a weapon, the counselor would enter 2 complaints for R4c and 1 for R4e. The youth's score for the item would be 4 because the assault with a weapon recorded in R4e is the most serious complaint). The maximum possible score for this item is 5.

- a. No assaults.
- b. Involvement in an affray.
- c. Yes, assault without a weapon. A weapon is any instrument that under the circumstances of its use is likely to cause bodily injury.
- d. Yes, assault without a weapon, inflicting serious injury. Serious injury may be physical injury that causes great pain and suffering or serious mental injury.
- e. Yes, assault with a weapon.
- f. Yes, assault with a weapon inflicting serious injury.

R5. Runaways (from home or placement)

"Runaway" is defined as absconding from home or any placement and not voluntarily returning within twenty-four (24) hours as evidenced by a complaint, motion for review or reliable information.

"Reliable information" is information the counselor has reason to believe is accurate.

- a. No.
- b. Yes.

Record the total actual number of prior runaway incidents.

R6. Known use of alcohol or illegal drugs during past 12 months

Evaluate behavior during the 12 months prior to the assessment.

Do not include tobacco in this item.

- a. No known substance use. Indicates there is not use, history of use, or pattern of strained relationship with parents concerning use.
- b. Some substance use, need for further assessment. Some substance use. Referral for further assessment is needed.
- c. Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed. Substance abuse is constituted by a maladaptive pattern of substance use leading to significant impairment or distress including **any** of the following: repeated use resulting disruption of functioning, such as interpersonal problems, poor job performance, repeated absences, suspension or expulsion from school, problems with the law, and/or physical harm to self or others.

R7. School behavior problems during the prior 12 months

Evaluate school behavior during the 12 months prior to the assessment. Include any school discipline resulting from the current offense.

- a. No problems. Youth is enrolled and regularly attending school. This includes those who have graduated or have received a GED.
- b. Minor problems. Minor disciplinary or work effort problems handled by classroom teacher or school personnel **or** the youth has from 1 to 3 (less than 4) unexcused absences/truancy.
- c. Moderate problems. Youth has: 4 but less than 10 unexcused absences/truancy; **or** received one or more in-school suspensions; **or** one short-term suspension (i.e. less than 10 days), may be considered somewhat disruptive in class.
- d. Serious problems or habitual truancy. Youth has: dropped out of school; **or** been expelled; **or** received more than 1 short-term suspension (less than 10 days); **or** received a long-term suspension (10 days or more); **or** had more than 10 unexcused absences/truancies.

R8. Peer relationships

Evaluate the degree to which the youth's peers appear to influence negative behavior at the time of the current assessment. Give information about specific circumstances by putting a check on the line following the appropriate circumstance.

- a. Peers usually provide good support and influence. Friends not known to be delinquent or to have influenced involvement in delinquent behavior.
- b. Youth is rejected by pro-social peers; **or** sometimes associates with peers who have been involved in delinquent/criminal activity but is not primary peer group. Youth is rejected, taunted, or shunned by peers; or youth may be frequently dependent upon peers and/or negatively influenced by them. Check which response applies on form.
- c. Youth regularly associates with others who are involved in delinquent/criminal activity. Delinquent/criminal activity may include but is not limited to drug/alcohol abuse. Youth usually provides a negative influence and may routinely exploit, manipulate, or be assaultive toward peers.

- d. Youth is a gang member; or associates with a gang. Check which response applies on form. A gang is defined as an organized, recognized group which has illegal activity as part of its purpose. The youth or a responsible adult confirm membership or association.

R9. Parental supervision (Score the current responsible parental authority)

This item should be scored giving consideration to the adult(s) who is currently acting as physical custodian of the juvenile and the supervision that will be provided for the juvenile.

- a. Parent, guardian or custodian willing and able to supervise. Parent is able and willing to control the behavior and the whereabouts of the juvenile. The juvenile responds to parental supervision and limit setting.
- b. Parent, guardian, or custodian willing but unable to supervise. Parent is willing to control the behavior of the juvenile but is not able to do so because of parental availability, parental skill ability or because the juvenile will not respond to the parent's supervision and/or limits.
- c. Parent, guardian, or custodian unwilling and unable to supervise. The parent states or indicates by behavior an unwillingness to supervise or control the whereabouts of the juvenile. The juvenile may or may not respond to supervision and limits if they were set by the parent.

R10. Total Risk Score

Add the scores for all items and enter the total score. Check the risk level that corresponds to the total score.

R11. Completed before or after adjudication:

Check whether the assessment was completed before adjudication for the current offense or after the adjudication hearing.

Write the common name for the most serious current offense and give the statute number. Indicate the offense classification assigned by statute for the offense. Circle the offense status at the time of the assessment. If the assessment is completed prior to adjudication, the offense is circled as "alleged" and as a "complaint." If the assessment is completed after the adjudication hearing, the offense is circled as "adjudicated" and as a "petition."

APPENDIX C
COURT COUNSELOR SURVEY AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (FY 2002 Recidivism Report):

Juvenile's Name _____		DOB ____ / ____ / ____	Sex ____	Race ____
<i>First Last</i>				
Date of Disposition: ____ / ____ / ____	Offense Level: _____	District: _____		
County: _____		Name of Court Counselor: _____		
1. What was the statutory citation for the above A-E felony offense: G.S. _____				
2. Does the above A-E Felony offense involve other companions or codefendants (juveniles or adults)? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unknown				
3. Is the juvenile a family member of the victim? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unknown				

B. QUESTIONS - For the above juvenile, do your records (or any records in the district) show whether:

1. There has been a complaint filed for a delinquent offense committed after ____ / ____ / ____?
____ **NO** -- Please skip to section C.

____ **YES** -- Please indicate date of the first such offense: ____ / ____ / ____
mo day year

-- Please indicate the statutory citation for the offense: G.S. _____
(If more than one offense, see instructions on reverse)

-- Please indicate the Class for the above offense (A through I, A1, or 1,2,3) _____

2. There has been an adjudication of delinquency for an offense committed after ____ / ____ / ____?

Note: This may be for the same offense or for a different offense than listed in question #1

____ **NO** -- Please skip to section C.

____ **YES** -- Please indicate date of the first such adjudication: ____ / ____ / ____
mo day year

-- Please indicate the statutory citation for the offense: G.S. _____
(If more than one offense, see instructions on reverse)

- Please indicate the Class for the above offense (A through I, A1, 1,2, or 3) _____

C. If the juvenile has moved to another district, please specify new location:

Name of person completing form _____	Phone number _____
PLEASE RETURN TO: Stan Clarkson, Research and Planning, Policy and Grants DJJDP, 1801 Mail Center Raleigh, NC 27699	

INSTRUCTIONS

This survey instrument will help the Department to meet its legislative mandate to analyze and report recidivism rates for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for violent offenses. The study is based on a sample of 211 juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent for Class A through Class E offenses during the fiscal year 2001-2002.

SECTION A: IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

This section contains pre-printed identification information for the juvenile. This information should enable the court counselor to locate the juvenile's records and files. There are three follow-up questions. Question A1 seeks to verify the exact offense for which the juvenile was adjudicated. A2 seeks to determine if the offense involved other companions or codefendants. A3 attempts to determine if there is the presence of family members in the victim/offender relationship. Please update these questions accordingly.

SECTION B: QUESTIONS

1. Please indicate whether your records (or any records in the district) indicate whether this juvenile had a subsequent complaint filed for a delinquent offense at any time after the date specified in the question.

If the answer is **NO**, please skip to Section C.

If the answer is **YES**:

- Please indicate the date of the first complaint. There may be additional complaints after this date, but for purposes of this study we are only interested in the date of the first complaint.
- Please indicate the statutory citation for the offense associated with the above complaint. If there were multiple offenses, list the citation for the offense that carried the highest Offense Class. If multiple offenses shared the same highest Offense Class, list the one you believe to be most serious.
- Please list the Offense Class for the offense listed above. The possible Offense Classes in order are A, B, B1, C, D, E, F, G, H or I (felonies) or A1, 1, 2 or 3 (misdemeanors).

2. Please indicate whether your records (or any records in the district) indicate whether the juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent for a offense committed after the date specified in the question.

Note: This may be for the same offense as listed in question #1 or for a different offense.

If the answer is **NO**, please skip to Section C.

If the answer is **YES**:

- Please indicate the date of the first adjudication of delinquency. There may be additional adjudications after this date, but for purposes of this study we are only interested in the date of the first adjudication.
- Please indicate the statutory citation for the offense associated with the above adjudication. If there were multiple offenses, list the citation for the offense that carried the highest Offense Class. If multiple offenses shared the same highest Offense Class, list the one you believe to be most serious.
- Please list the Offense Class for the offense listed above. The possible Offense Classes in order are A, B, B1, C, D, E, F, G, H or I (felonies) or A1, 1, 2 or 3 (misdemeanors).

SECTION C: If the juvenile has moved to another district, please indicate the new location.

RETURN

Please indicate the name and telephone number of the person completing the survey and return it to the address indicated.

ASSISTANCE:

If you have questions or need other assistance with this survey, please call Stan Clarkson (ext. 295) or Bradford Woodard (ext. 302) of the DJJDP Research Staff at 919-733-3388.

APPENDIX D

Index of Offense Severity

GS Number	Description	Class	Legal Severity
14-17	Murder, 1st Degree	A	512
14-27.2	Rape, 1st Degree	B1	511
14-27.4	Sexual Offense, 1st Degree	B1	510
14-17	Murder, 2nd Degree	B2	509
14-27.2/.4	Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 1st degree	B2	508
14-32(a)	Assault w/dw w/itk inflict serious injury	C	507
14-27.3	Rape, 2nd Degree	C	506
14-27.5	Sexual Offense, 2nd Degree	C	505
14-39	Kidnapping, 1st Degree	C	504
	Other Class C felonies	C	502
14-58	Arson, 1st Degree	D	501
14-87	Armed Robbery/attempted armed robbery	D	445
14-27.3/.5	Attempt to commit rape/sexual offense, 2nd degree	D	444
14-51	Burglary, 1st Degree	D	443
14-53	Breaking out of dwelling	D	442
	Other Class D felonies	D	441
14-18	Manslaughter, Voluntary	E	440
14-32(c)	Assault w/dw w/itk	E	439
14-32(b)	Assault w/dw inflicting serious injury	E	438
14-39	Kidnapping, 2nd Degree	E	437
14-34.1	Discharging firearm into occupied property	E	436
	Other Class E felonies	E	435
14-18	Manslaughter, Involuntary	F	434
14-202.1	Taking indecent liberties with children	F	433
14-59/62	Burning building/property	F	432
14-34.2	Assault with firearm upon law-enforcement officer	F	431
14-288.8	Possession of weapon of mass destruction	F	430
	Other Class F felonies	F	429
14-58	Arson, 2nd Degree	G	428
14-51	Burglary, 2nd Degree	G	427
14-87.1	Common law robbery	G	426
	Other Class G felonies	G	425
14-72	Larceny, felony	H	424
14-54(a)	Breaking or entering with intent to commit felony	H	423
20-106	Possession of stolen vehicle	H	422
14-71	Receiving stolen goods, felony	H	421
14-71.1	Felonious possession of stolen goods	H	420
90-95(a)(1)	Controlled substance - sell/deliver	H	419
	Other Class H felonies	H	418
90-95(a)(2)	Counterfeit controlled substance - sell/deliver	I	417
14-177	Crime against nature	I	416
14-269.2	Possession of weapon on school grounds, felony	I	415
14-89.1	Safecracking	I	414
14-113.9	Credit card theft	I	413

14-113.11	Credit card forgery	I	412
14-113.13	Credit card fraud	I	411
14-119	Forgery	I	410
14-120	Uttering	I	409
14-56	Breaking or entering vehicle	I	408
90-95(a)(3)	Possession of controlled substance, felony	I	407
	Other Class I felonies	I	406
14-33(c)(1)	Assault inflicting serious injury	A1	405
14-33 (c) (1)	Assault with a deadly weapon	A1	404
14-33(c)(3)	Assault on child under twelve	A1	403
14-33(c)(4)	Assault on an officer or employee of the state	A1	402
14-33(c)(5)	Assault on a schoolbus driver/school employee	A1	401
14-34	Assault by pointing a gun	A1	307
	Other Class A1 misdemeanors	A1	306
20-141.4	Misdemeanor death by vehicle	1	305
14-277.1	Communicating threats	1	304
14-269.2	Possession of weapon on school grounds, misdemeanor	1	303
14-202	Peeping	1	302
20-166.1	Hit and run, failure to notify authorities	1	301
20-166	Hit and run	1	229
20-166(c)	Hit and run when injury/death not apparent	1	228
20-141	Speeding while attempting to elude apprehension	1	227
14-54(b)	Breaking and entering, misdemeanor	1	226
14-72	Larceny, misdemeanor	1	225
14-71	Receiving stolen goods, misdemeanor	1	224
14-71.1	Possessing stolen goods, misdemeanor	1	223
14-127	Injury to real property	1	222
14-128	Injury to trees, crops, lands of another	1	221
14-203	Prostitution	1	220
90-95(a)(3)	Possession of controlled substance, misdemeanor	1	219
18B-302(b)(2)	Purchase or possession of wine or mixed beverages	1	218
18B-302(b)(1)	Purchase or possession of malt beverages	1	217
90-113.22	Drug paraphernalia	1	216
14-72.2	Unauthorized use of motor-propelled conveyance	1	215
20-28	Driving while license revoked	1	214
	Other Class 1 misdemeanors	1	213
14-33	Simple assault	2	212
14-190.9	Indecent Exposure	2	211
14-137	Setting fire to grass, woodlands	2	210
14-196	Harrassing phone calls	2	209
14-223	Resisting arrest	2	208
14-269	Concealed weapons	2	207
20-140	Reckless driving	2	206
20-138.2	Driving while impaired provisional license	2	205
20-138.1	Driving while impaired	2	204
14-110	Defrauding innkeeper	2	203
14-159.12	Trespassing, 1st Degree	2	202
20-141.3	Prearranged racing	2	201

14-288.4	Disorderly conduct/Public Disturbance	2	122
20-7(a)	Driving without license	2	121
14-225	Giving false information to an officer	2	120
20-107	Tampering with Auto	2	119
14-160	Injury to personal property	2	118
20-138.3	Driving by provisional licensee after drinking alcohol	2	117
	Other Class 2 misdemeanors	2	116
14-159.13	Trespassing, 2nd Degree	3	115
14-72.1	Shoplifting (first offense)	3	114
14-444	Drunk and disruptive	3	113
	Other Class 3 misdemeanors	3	112

APPENDIX E

COMPARISON OF MEAN RISK FACTOR SCORES

R1 Age at First Delinquent Complaint

		Mean Scores Age at first delinquent complaint Coding Values: Age 12 or over or no delinquent complaint=0 Under age 12 = 2
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.32
A-E Felony Cohort	147	0.27
Cohort Rearrests	41	0.36

R2 Number of undisciplined or delinquent referrals to Intake

		Mean Scores Number of Prior Complaints Coding Values: Current Referral Only= 0 1 Prior=1 2-3 Priors=2 4+ Priors=3
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.91
A-E Felony Cohort	147	0.87
Cohort Rearrests	41	0.95

R3. Most serious prior adjudication(s).

		Mean Scores Most Serious Prior Adjudication Coding Values: No priors=0 Prior Undisciplined=1 Prior Misdemeanor =2 Prior F-I Felony or A1 Misdemeanor =3 Prior A-E Felony=4
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.80
A-E Felony Cohort	147	1.10
Cohort Rearrests	41	1.41

R4 Prior Assaults:

		Mean Scores Prior Assaults Coding Values: No Prior Assaults=0 Affray=1 Yes without weapon=2 Yes, without a weapon, inflicting serious injury= 3 Yes, with a weapon=4 Yes, with a weapon inflicting serious injury =5
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.51
A-E Felony Cohort	147	0.64
Cohort Rearrests	41	0.87

R5. Runaways (from home or placement):

		Mean Scores Prior Assaults Coding Values: No= 0 or Yes= 2
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.51
A-E Felony Cohort	147	0.64
Cohort Rearrests	41	0.87

R6. Known use of alcohol or illegal drugs during past 12 months:

		Mean Scores Substance Abuse Coding Values: No known substance use=0 Some substance use, need for further assessment=1 Substance abuse, assessment and/or treatment needed=3
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.71
A-E Felony Cohort	147	0.68
Cohort Rearrests	41	1.18

R7. School behavior problems during the prior 12 months:

		Mean Scores School Behavior prior 12 months Coding Values: No Problems=0 Minor Problems=1 Moderate Problems=2 Serious Problems=3
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	2.26
A-E Felony Cohort	147	1.95
Cohort Rearrests	41	2.23

R8. Peer relationships:

		Mean Scores Peer Relationships Coding Values: Peers usually provide good support and influence = 0 Youth is rejected by pro-social peers or youth sometimes associates with others who have been involved in delinquent/criminal activity but is not primary peer group = 1 Youth regularly associates with others who are involved in delinquent/criminal activity = 3 Youth is a gang member or associates with a gang = 5
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	1.67
A-E Felony Cohort	147	1.61
Cohort Rearrests	41	2.03

R9. Parental supervision:

		Mean Score Parental Supervision Coding Values: Parent, guardian or custodian willing and able to supervise =0 Parent, guardian or custodian willing but unable to supervise = 2 Parent, guardian or custodian unwilling to supervise = 3
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	0.85
A-E Felony Cohort	147	0.93
Cohort Rearrests	41	0.97

R10. Total Risk Score:

		Mean Score Total Risk Coding Value Ranges: Low Risk= 0-7 Medium Risk= 8-14 High Risk= 15 or more
	N Size	
Statewide FY 01-'02	9306	8.52
A-E Felony Cohort	147	8.44
Cohort Rearrests	41	10.31